

**REMARKS**

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 6 is acknowledged with appreciation. By this amendment, the features of allowable claim 6 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and claim 6 has been canceled.

The rejection of claims 1, 4 and 5 is believed rendered moot by the foregoing amendments.


In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #178/49984).

Respectfully submitted,

December 23, 2003

  
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